



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,  
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney  
Director of Community Relations  
(612) 664-5611  
email: [jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov](mailto:jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov)**

## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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[WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MN](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MN)

### **6 indicted for possessing with intent to distribute marijuana**

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment against six defendants for allegedly possessing with intent to distribute marijuana. In the indictment, which was filed with the U.S. District Court earlier today, Guillermmo Villanueva-Garcia, 34, St. Paul; Ramon Patino Garcia, 32, Chula Vista, California; Miguel Angel Godinez-Chavez, 25, St. Paul; Jose Lopez, 27, St. Paul; Alejandro Albarran Miranda, 24, St. Paul; and David Sosa-Amaya, 20, Los Angeles, California, were charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana and one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana. The indictment alleges the defendants conspired with each other between December 1, 2008, and November 17, 2009, to possess with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana as well as possess with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana on November 17, 2009, alone.

A Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") affidavit on file with the court in this case states that on November 17, 2009, law enforcement executed a search warrant at a residence in the 1200 block of Sherburne Avenue in St. Paul. There, agents found Garcia, Godinez-Chavez, and Villanueva-Garcia in the garage, huddled around the back of a pickup truck. They appeared to be reconstructing a piece of machinery believed to have been used to hide the marijuana during transit from California to Minnesota. Inside the house, officers found Miranda and Lopez, as well as two industrial-sized rolls of shrink wrap, four digital scales, a box of rubber gloves, and a firearm. In the basement, police seized more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. All five men were immediately arrested.

Sosa-Amaya was arrested at a Super-8 Motel near White Bear Avenue and Interstate 94 in St. Paul. He allegedly drove the shipment of marijuana from California to Minnesota. Under the mattress in his hotel room, police uncovered \$3,000 in cash. An additional \$1,000 in cash was found in his wallet.

If convicted, the six defendants face a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison on

each charge. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the DEA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carol M. Kayser.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.